success and popularity of the scheme in Rajdhani Express Trains.

(c) No, Sir. However, since the equipment is owned and maintained by VSNL and since no spares are available, the train goes without this facility whenever the equipment is faulty and under repair.

Double lane fly-over between Poalsit and Saktigarh

2096. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the planning was poor for construction of double lane fly-over between Poalsit and Saktigarh as per the CAG Report;

(b) how much amount has been spent due to the poor planning; and

(c) what action have been taken in this behalf against any responsible person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, there have been deviations due to increase in quantity, additon of new items and deletion of items on technical considerations and site conditions.

(b) The net increase in cost was Rs. 5,38 crs. after taking into account the cost of deleted items. The extra expenditure had to be incurred on account of increase of length of viaduct being unavoidable, Site constraints like existence of railway quarters at Poalsit GT Road, private land with houses an existing lines in proximity of embankment necessitated extension of the viaduct.

(c) Deviation being necessitated by technical considerations and site conditions, no individual was responsible for the same.

Silchar-Lumding broad gauge project

2097. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 30 crores has been returned from the Silchar-Lumding broad gauge project due to its non-utilisation within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, reasons for its non-utilisation;

(c) if non-utilisation was due to the incompetence of project officials whether Government proposes any action against them;

(d) whether Government are contemplating any steps to complete the project in time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Initially funds of Rs. 30 crs. were allotted for the project against which final allotment was reduced to Rs. 2 crs. and Rs. 1.16 crs., were actually utilised. The alignment from Lumding to Badarpur passes through hilly terrain where sharp curves, steep gradient and tunnels are encountered in MG, while BG alignment follows flat curves and flatter gradients for which Final Location Survey is in progress and the work will be taken up after this survey is completed. The entire conversion is to be completed in one phase and it would take around 6-7 years for completion provided adequate funds commensurate with the actual progress are made available in future.

As regards the remaining section from Badarpur to Silchar which is plain and does not have sharp curves and steep gradients, work on earthwork and bridges is in progress.

Planning Commission is being requested to provide additional funds for progressing and completing all the projects in the North Eastern Region in a time bound manner.

New Railway lines in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

2098. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of routes where survey has been conducted to lay new railway lines in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during 1996, 1997 and the current year; and

(b) the estimated cost of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.